

scope, jurisdiction, and general basic concepts of employer liability.

(b) In the administration of the Act, the Office has one general policy, which is to follow and to adhere to the principles of workers' compensation law as stated in the opinions of the Supreme Court, the Federal Circuit Courts of Appeal, and the District Courts of the United States, as they may appropriately be applied or have been determined by the Employees' Compensation Appeals Board (ECAB) to apply in like situations arising under the Act. In addition, decisions and opinions of the judicial tribunals of the several States furnish principles of law of general applicability in the specialized field of workers' compensation, which form parts of the foundation of general principles relied upon in the application and interpretation of the Act. The Office applies the provision of the Act applicable in respect to a particular case or situation, to the extent that such provision can readily be applied without extrinsic aid, but where such aid is necessary the source thereof is the body of principles embodied in authoritative decisions of the courts and the ECAB within such well-recognized branch of the law.

#### REPRESENTATIVE PAYMENT

SOURCE: Sections 10.160 through 10.166 appear at 52 FR 10514, 10515, Apr. 1, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 10.160 Indications for designation of a representative payee.

When the Office determines that a beneficiary is incapable of managing or directing the management of benefits either because of a mental or physical disability, or because of legal incompetence, or because the individual is under 18 years of age, the Office in its sole discretion may approve an individual designated or appointed to serve as the representative payee for funds due the eligible beneficiary.

#### § 10.161 Selection of a payee.

(a) In approving a payee, the Office shall approve the person, agency, organization or institution which, in its judgment, will best serve the interest of the beneficiary. In making its decision the Office shall consider:

(1) The relationship of the person to the beneficiary;

(2) The amount of interest that the person shows in the welfare of the beneficiary;

(3) Any legal authority the person, agency, organization or institution has to act on behalf of the beneficiary;

(4) Whether the potential payee has custody of the beneficiary;

(5) Whether the potential payee is in a position to know of and to look after the needs of the beneficiary.

(b) For beneficiaries 18 years old or older, the general order of preference subject to the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, shall be:

(1) A legal guardian, spouse or other relative who has custody of the beneficiary or who demonstrates strong concern for the personal welfare of the beneficiary;

(2) A friend who has custody of the beneficiary or demonstrates strong concern for the personal welfare of the beneficiary;

(3) A public or nonprofit agency or institution having custody of the beneficiary;

(4) A private institution operated for profit and licensed under State law which has custody of the beneficiary; and

(5) Persons other than above who are qualified to carry out the responsibilities of a payee and who are able and willing to serve as a payee for a beneficiary.

(c) For beneficiaries under age 18, the general order of preference subject to the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section shall be—

(1) A biological or adoptive parent who has custody of the beneficiary, or a legal guardian;

(2) A biological or adoptive parent who does not have custody of the beneficiary, but is contributing to the beneficiary's support and is demonstrating strong concern for the beneficiary's well-being;

(3) A biological or adoptive parent who does not have custody of the beneficiary and is not contributing toward his or her support, but is demonstrating strong concern for the beneficiary's well-being;

(4) A relative or stepparent who has custody of the beneficiary;